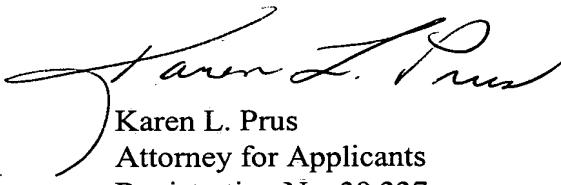


REMARKS

Applicants have attached an abstract on a separate sheet of paper as required by US practice. Applicants have amended the specification for purposes of adding the priority information. Claims 31, 32, 33, and 37 have been cancelled. Claims 14, 20, 26, 27, 29, 30, and 34 have been amended to remove the multiple dependencies and new claims 38-55 have been added instead in accordance with U.S. practice. No new matter has been added.

Applicants respectfully submit that the instant application is ready for examination on the merits. An early consideration and notice of allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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Copy of the Claims with Markings to Show Changes Made

14. (Amended) A compound according to [any of claims 1, 5, 6, 8, 10, or 12] claim 6 wherein X is O.

20. (Amended) A compound according to [any of claims 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 17, 18, or 1] claim 4 wherein

R¹ is phenyl which is substituted in the *meta* position with one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen, -CF₃, C₁₋₈alkyl, C₁₋₈alkylamino, alkoxy, C₃₋₆cycloalkylC₂₋₆alkenyl, C₆₋₁₄arylC₂₋₆alkenyl, -CN, -NO₂, -NH₂, -SR⁶, -S(O)₂R⁶, -S(O)R⁷, -S(O)₂R⁷, -C(O)R⁷, C₂₋₆alkenyl which may be optionally substituted with a substituent selected from the group consisting of hydroxy, halogen, aryl, and heterocycle, and C₂₋₆alkynyl which may be optionally substituted with a substituent selected from the group consisting of hydroxy, halogen, aryl, C₃₋₆cycloalkyl, and heterocycle;

R² is hydrogen;

R³ is hydrogen;

R⁴ is phenyl substituted in the *ortho* position with a substituent selected from the group consisting of hydroxy, halogen, -CF₃, or C₁₋₈alkyl and substituted at the *para* position with a substituent selected from the group consisting of hydroxy, halogen, -CF₃, C₁₋₈alkyl, hydroxyC₁₋₈alkyl, -CN, -NO₂, C₁₋₈alkylamino, heterocycleC₁₋₈alkyl, -C(O)NH₂, -S(O)R⁷, -S(O)₂R⁷, -C(O)R⁷, -NS(O)₂R⁷, -S(O)₂NR⁸R⁹, -S(O)₂NHR¹¹, -SO₂R¹¹, -OR¹¹, -C(O)R¹¹, -C(O)NR¹¹, -C(O)OR¹¹, -NR¹¹, -NC(O)R¹¹, heterocycleC₂₋₆alkenyl, heterocycle which may be optionally substituted with one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of oxo, C₁₋₈alkyl, and C(O)OR¹¹, and C₁₋₈alkyl which may be optionally substituted with one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of -CN and heterocycle, optionally substituted with -C(O)R¹¹;

R⁵ is a substituent in the *para* position relative to X and is selected from the group consisting of halogen, C₁₋₈alkyl, -NO₂, -NH₂, C₁₋₈alkylamino, CF₃, or alkoxy;

R¹¹ is C₁₋₈alkyl, optionally substituted with one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C₁₋₈alkyl, -S(O)₂NR⁸R⁹, -NR⁸R⁹, and heterocycle, optionally substituted with one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of oxo and C₁₋₈alkyl; or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof.

26. (Amended) A compound according to [any of claims 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 17, 18, or 19] claim 4 wherein R¹ is C₆₋₁₄ aryl substituted in the meta position, particularly with halogen and wherein R³ is hydrogen and R⁴ is C₆₋₁₄aryl substituted with C₁₋₈alkyl, in particular methyl.

27. (Amended) A method of treatment of a viral infection in a mammal comprising administering to said mammal an antivirally effective amount of a compound according to [any of claims 1 to 26] claim 2.

29. (Amended) A method of inhibiting HIV reverse transcriptase comprising administering to a mammal an effective amount of a compound according to [any of claims 1 to 26] claim 2.

30. (Amended) A method of preventing HIV infection, or of treating HIV infection, comprising administering to a mammal an effective amount of a compound according to [any of claims 1 to 26] claim 2.

31. (Cancelled)

32. (Cancelled)

33. (Cancelled)

34. (Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of a compound according to [any of claims 1 to 26] claim 2 together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

37. (Cancelled).